

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – Mar 26 - 30, 2012
Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

March Madness, the NCAA annual basketball tournament is in full swing. Time for a little deaf-related basketball trivia.

DCQW readers may recall that Lance Allred was the first deaf basketball player to play in the NBA but he was not the first deaf basketball player to be drafted to an NBA professional team. Who was the first one?

- a) Leon Grant
- b) Bill Schyman
- c) Don Lyons
- d) Mike Ashford

Answer “b” - Bill Schyman played for DePaul University, and was drafted by the Baltimore Bullets in 1953. He played a few pre-season games but was cut before the official season started. The Harlem Globetrotters signed him to a contract to play for the opposing team during Globetrotters' games. He played for two seasons and then played for deaf clubs at national deaf basketball tournaments. He has been enshrined into the DePaul athletic hall of fame. (Cited from: *Great Deaf Americans*, The Second Edition, p.250-255)

See this website for Bill Schyman's bio:

<http://www.jewsinsports.org/profile.asp?sport=basketball&ID=351>

Deaf Culture Questions of the Week are archived at: <http://www.wsd.wa.gov>